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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/525,934	02/25/2005	Klaus Biester	1600-11900	4984

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HOUSTON, TX 77253-3267

EXAMINER

BOCHNA, DAVID

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3679

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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07/09/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/525,934

Applicant(s)

BIESTER, KLAUS

Examiner

David E. Bochna

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 April 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 and 11-30 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 10 and 31-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 32-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

3. Claim 32 recites the limitation "the second plurality of contact members" in the second to last line. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

4. Claim 40 recites the limitation "the first and second plurality of contact members" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 10 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Haeber et al.

In regard to claim 10, Haeber et al. discloses a connecting mechanism (fig. 2-3) for two parts 63, 68, which are at least partially insertable into one another, with a cam-operated component 80, which runs on bearings 102 on the one part (2) and is adjustable between a passive and active position for shifting a number of contact elements 75 between a

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withdrawal and a contact position, whereby the contact elements 75, when in the contact position, mesh in a retaining indentation 74 on the other part 68, and with a driving device 86 for the adjustment of the cam-operated component 80 between the active and passive position, characterized in that the contact elements 75 are allocated in two or more levels (protrusion of 75 fitting into 74 and protrusion of 75 fitting into 74a) essentially parallel to the insertion direction of the two parts 63, 68 and the cam-operated component 80 for shifting the contact elements 75 between the withdrawal and contact positions is allocated to each level (80 runs along the entire radially interior surface of 75) and contact element being forced in the direction of the withdrawal position (by wall 74, 74a pushing inward on 75).

In regard to claim 31, Haeber et al. discloses a connecting mechanism (fig. 2-3) for two parts 63, 68, which are at least partially insertable into one another, with a cam-operated component 80, which runs on bearings 102 on the one part (2) and is adjustable between a passive and active position for shifting a number of contact elements 75 between a withdrawal and a contact position, whereby the contact elements 75, when in the contact position, mesh in a retaining indentation 74 on the other part 68, and with a driving device 86 for the adjustment of the cam-operated component 80 between the active and passive position, characterized in that the contact elements 75 are allocated in two or more levels (protrusion of 75 fitting into 74 and protrusion of 75 fitting into 74a) essentially parallel to the insertion direction of the two parts 63, 68 and the cam-operated component 80 for shifting the contact elements 75 between the withdrawal and contact positions is allocated to each level (80 runs along the entire radially interior surface of 75), wherein the driving device 86 includes a driven shaft 87 mechanically synchronized in its rotational movements (as it pivots on pins 88 and 85).

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 1-9 and 11-30 are allowed.
8. Claims 32-40 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments filed 4/17/07 have been fully considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection. In regard to claims 10 and 31, Applicant states that independent claim 1 has been incorporated into dependent claims 10 and 31, which were indicated as allowable in the previous office action. However, the Applicant amended the original language of claims 10 and 31 to remove the subject matter that was considered allowable, specifically the spring biasing force in claim 10 and the plurality of driven shafts in claim 31. Therefore the rejection in view of Haeber et al. has been maintained.

Conclusion

10. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

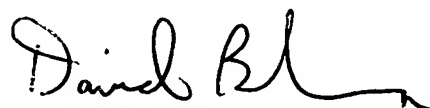
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David E. Bochna whose telephone number is (571) 272-7078. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5:30 Monday-Thursday and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571) 272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



David E. Bochna
Primary Examiner
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